

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 30, 2004.

Claims 1, 4-9, 13-17, and 20-27 are pending in the present application. Applicant has changed claims 1, 4-7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 20-23, and added new claims 25-27 in this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-9, 13-17, and 20-27 remain pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-9, 12-17, and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ponnekanti (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,626). Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify these inventions and their subject matter. For example, the accessing of rows is clarified. In addition, these claims now recite that the step of evaluating includes determining that a particular row does not satisfy the set of predicates of the query, and skipping the particular row, including when a lock is currently held on the particular row and an update on the particular row is being performed while the lock is held. The feature of returning the row has also been removed and included in new dependent claims 25-27. Support for the amendments is found in the Specification at page 4, lines 20-21 and page 6, lines 4-15. No new matter has been presented. The dependent claims are amended to provide proper claim dependencies in light of the amended independent claims.

Ponnekanti does not disclose or suggest skipping a non-satisfying row, including when a lock is currently held on that row and an update on that row is being performed while the lock is held. Ponnekanti teaches that when the row status bits indicate that an “update” is being performed on the row, and the row does not qualify, then an “instant duration lock is requested”

(col. 15, lines 39-42). The instant duration lock requires that if the update is uncommitted (i.e. not completed), then the process must “sleep” on the lock until the lock may be granted (col. 15, lines 42-46). Thus, Ponnekanti does not skip a non-qualifying row when that row has an update being performed, nor suggests doing so, but instead waits for the lock to be released. As explained in Applicant’s specification, Applicant’s skipping of a row that is being updated exposes the present invention to skipping a row that may actually qualify (if the update rolls back and the original content satisfies the predicates), but the benefits of significantly reduced lock contention outweigh these occurrences (Specification, page 5, lines 9-23).

Claims 4-8 and 25 are dependent from claim 1 and are patentable over Ponnekanti for at least the same reasons as claim 1 and for additional reasons. Similarly, claims 12-16 and 26, and claims 20-24 and 27 are dependent from claims 9 and 17, respectively, and are patentable over Ponnekanti for at least the same reasons as their parent claims and for additional reasons.

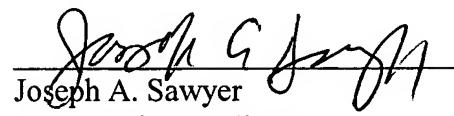
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Ponnekanti fails to teach or suggest the inventions as recited in the pending claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4-9, 13-17, and 20-27 are allowable over the cited reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

March 30, 2005
Date


Joseph A. Sawyer
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 30,801
(650) 493-4540